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LARGE HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATIONS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN URALS AND EASTERN REGIONS OF THE USSR

/Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources./

In September 1953 construction of the Kamskaya GES was well along and work on the Votkinskaya GES was beginning. On the Irtysh River construction of the Bukhtarminskaya GES was under way. On the Ob' River construction of the Novosibirskaya GES had reached an advanced stage. And on the Angara River work had started on utilization of the abundant power resources of the river.(1)

Kamskaya GES

The Kamskaya GES, located on the Kama River near the city of Molotov, is to supply power to the industries of the Urals in the period of the Fifth Five-Year Plan.

Late in the fall of 1953, at the end of the navigation season, the 150-meter opening which had been left in the dam across the Kama for passage of ships was filled in. In 10 days, over 2,000 concrete "blocks" weighing 4 tons each and thousands of tons of stone and earth were thrown into this opening. As the sheet piling and earthen cofferdam around the first phase of the construction site were removed, the water of the Kama River began gradually to flow over a section of the reinforced-concrete spillway dam.

By February 1954, about 400,000 cubic meters of reinforced concrete had been placed in the spillway dam of the GES and about 300,000 cubic meters had been placed in the navigable lock. The volume of earthwork exceeded 10 million cubic meters.

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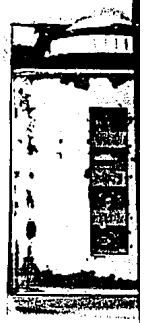


No separate building was being constructed for the GES, which is located in the spillway dam itself. The navigable lock -- a large structure consisting of six levels -- has two separate canals. One is to be used for rafts of timber floated down the river from the Urals and the other for shipping.

The scale of operations was to increase during winter 1953-1954 so that structures could be placed in operation on schedule. Tens of thousands of cubic meters of concrete remained to be placed, two large cranes installed, and approximately 200,000 cubic meters of earth in the cofferdam removed in order to permit the ice and part of the spring flood waters to pass over the dam in the spring of 1954. This work was considered prerequisite to filling the Molotov Reservoir (Molotovskoye More) systematically and supplying the necessary water pressure for operation of the lock. One canal of the lock is to be in operation by 1 May 1954 to permit passage of 2 million cubic meters of timber from the Urals; the other canal is to be in operation by 15 May 1954 to permit ships to pass up the river. At the same time, equipment must be installed and the hydroelectric power station readied for operation.

A large modern settlement for the builders has grown up on the high bank of the river valley. Residential buildings with a total area of 120,000 square meters, 5 schools, 6 children's institutions, a motion-picture theatre, 2 clubs, and a medical center have been built.(2)

Bukhtarminskaya GES

In July 1953 work began on the Bukhtarminskaya GES, located on the Irtysh River above the Ust'-Kamenogorskaya GES.(3)

In September 1953 many of the persons who had worked on the Ust'-Kamenogorskaya GES were working on the Bukhtarminskaya GES, including Aleksey Nikolayevich Ivanov, construction chief of the Bukhtarma Hydroelectric Center, and Andrey Vladimirovich Bakulin, chief construction engineer.

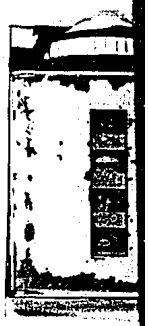
The Bukhtarminskaya GES is to be the second in a cascade of large electric power stations and reservoirs on the Irtysh River. The reinforced-concrete dam of this station is to be over 100 meters high, the highest in the USSR. Over twice as much concrete is to be placed in the Bukhtarma Hydroelectric Center as was placed in the Ust'-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Center.(4) A new reservoir, the Irtyshskoye More, is to contain more water than either the Kuybyshev Reservoir (Kuybyshevskoye More)(3) or the Tsimlyansk Reservoir (Tsimlyanskoye More) and will be the largest reservoir in the world. There will be a navigable lock at the hydroelectric center and ships will be raised a much greater distance than at the Ust'-Kamenogorsk Hydroelectric Center.

By September 1953 preparations were under way for removing the alluvium layer from the bottom of the river channel and concreting the fissures in the underwater rock which is to serve as the foundation for the dam. Blasting, drilling, and earth-scraping operations were also in progress.

In September 1953 a village for the builders of the Bukhtarminskaya GES was under construction. A railroad station, some two-story stone houses, and a school were already completed. The electric power transmission line from the Ust'-Kamenogorskaya GES had not yet been extended to the village.(4)

Novosibirskaya GES

According to V. V. Ivanov, construction chief of the Novosibirskaya GES, this construction project of the Fifth Five-Year Plan is one of the largest in the eastern regions of the USSR.



In February 1954 the construction area extended along both banks of the Ob' River near Novosibirsk. About 1.2 million cubic meters of earth had been removed from the construction site for the GES building and the reinforced-concrete spillway dam. Preparations for placing concrete in the foundation of these structures were nearly completed, the concrete to be supplied from a concrete plant situated near the site. On the right bank of the river a second concrete plant was being assembled to supply concrete for the navigable lock which was under construction there. It was expected that creation of a reservoir 240 kilometers long and, in places, over 20 kilometers wide would improve navigation on the upper reaches of the Ob'.

Power lines and railroad lines to the construction sites had been built. Work was in progress in the quarries and wood-cutting areas. A brick plant, a wood combine, and other subsidiary enterprises had been built.(5) As of 8 February 1954 the Nyazepetrovsk Machine Building Plant imeni M. I. Kalinin had shipped three cranes to the construction project and was to ship three more in February 1954. Other plants in the southern Urals producing equipment for the project were the Chelyabinsk Plant imeni Kolyushchenko and the Tractor Plant imeni Stalin.(6)

Villages for the builders have grown up on both banks of the river. In February 1954 there were about 65,000 square meters of living space in new houses. Three schools, a hospital, a dispensary, children's institutions, two clubs, a bread-baking plant, stores, dining halls, and personal services buildings had been built.(5)

Angarskaya GES

In February 1954 a large hydroelectric power station was under construction near the small village of Kuz'mikha on the Angara River. A large sector of the river channel had been partitioned off with steel sheet piling an earthen dam. In the excavation for the GES building, work preparatory to placing concrete was in progress. A. Ye. Bochkin, chief of construction /probably the A. Bochkin who was formerly construction chief of the South Ukrainian and North Crimean Canals(8)/, stated that, despite seasonal difficulties, Angarstroy had fulfilled the January plan 103.4 percent, having placed 170,000 cubic meters of earth in the dam, and had pledged to complete the construction-assembly plan for the first quarter of 1954 by election day, 14 March 1954.

Earth for the dam was being scraped from the river bottom by walking excavators. In the summer and fall of 1953 special reserves of gravel and sand had been accumulated. Excavators and dump trucks were providing 70 percent of the transportation.(7) On 8 February 1954 the Chelyabinsk Machinery Plant had a railroad crane with a diesel engine ready for shipment to the Angarskaya GES. This plant had previously shipped suction dredges and truck cranes to the construction project. The Chelyabinsk Plant imeni Kolyushchenko and the Tracto- Plant imeni Stalin were also manufacturing equipment for this construction project.(6)

A workers' settlement had grown up at Kuz'mikha and 70,000 square meters of living space had been put into use.(7)

SOURCES

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3. Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 3 Jul 53
4. Moscow, Ogonek, No 38, Sep 53
5. Moscow, Izvestiya, 3 Feb 54
6. Pravda, 8 Feb 54
7. Pravda, 4 Feb 54
8. Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 26 Feb 52

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